

1. ~~Mr. Andrew Parry~~  
2. ~~Parry~~.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD



Annual Reports

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
for the year

1961

**Medical Officer of Health :**

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Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic  
(Local Health Authority)

Tel. No. Ashton-in-Makerfield 7245.

**Public Health Inspectors :**

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.  
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Cert. Royal Society of Health.  
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health.  
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

**Food Inspectors :**

Public Health Inspectors as above.

**Superintendent of Cleansing Department :**

Mr. FRANK BURROWS.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

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Annual Reports

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1961

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Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the eighty-sixth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1961.

## Introduction

This Urban District adjoins Haydock to the south and west, Billinge to the north-west, Abram and Golborne to the east. The Wigan County Borough lies to the north. Ashton-in-Makerfield lies equidistant from the large conurbations of Liverpool and Manchester. The district slopes gently from north-west to south-west and is only fourteen miles from the sea to the south-west. Geology reveals coal measures and Bunter red sandstone and the landscape is diversified with areas of parkland. The area is approximately 6,265 acres.

## Social conditions

The population at the 1951 census was 19,053 and is now 19,500. The proportion of the population over sixty five is approximately 13% and is gradually rising as in the country generally.

The population is employed in agriculture, textile weaving, rayon manufacture and iron foundry. As coal mining has now ceased many people are employed outside the district and there is a need to attract new light industries to this area which is well sited and supplied with essential services. The acreage is approximately 6,265 and with a population of 19,500 gives a density of three persons per acre compared with two per acre for the County of Lancashire.

The Rateable Value of property in the Urban District is £159,078 and a penny rate yields £633.

There is an Ashton Linen and Woollen Charity dating back to the seventeenth century which helps those in need by annual distributions. Health and Welfare services are provided by the Lancashire County Council through the No. 8 Division. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly in the town and there is also a regular School Clinic.

### Sanitary Circumstances

The water supply is local upland surface water and water purchased from the Liverpool Corporation. The mains have been extended to a number of private estate developments and Council estates. The public mains now supply approximately 6,479 houses. The Makerfield Water Board supervise the supply distribution and testing of water.

Sewage works are in the process of extension and improvement, the method being by sedimentation and filtration. There are 5,842 houses on the water carriage system and continuous efforts are made to convert the remaining pail closets.

Refuse is collected in dustbins of which there are 5,789. Dry ashpits are being eliminated steadily. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

### Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year population : 19,500.

Comparability factors : Births 0.97.

Deaths 1.21.

Live Births	Male	Female
Total .....	167	160
Legitimate .....	163	159
Illegitimate .....	4	1
Still Births		
Total .....	4	4
Legitimate .....	4	4
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil
Deaths—infants under 1 year of age		
Total .....	6	4
Legitimate .....	6	4
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil
Deaths—infants under four weeks of age		
Total .....	3	3
Legitimate .....	3	3
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil

Deaths—infants under one week of age

Total .....	2	1
Legitimate .....	2	1
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)

Crude rate .....	12.5
Adjusted rate .....	15.1
Respiratory T.B. ....	0.21
Malignant neoplasms .....	1.33
Lung and Bronchus .....	0.2

Live Birth rates per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate .....	16.8
Adjusted rate .....	16.3

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births ... 23.9

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births .....

2.99

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 30.6

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .....

18.3

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .....

9.2

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births .....

32.8

England and Wales.

Death rate, all causes .....

12.0 per 1,000 general population

Respiratory T.B. ....

0.065 per 1,000 general population

Malignant neoplasms—all forms .....

2.16

Lung and bronchus .....

0.49

Other forms .....

1.67

Maternal mortality .....

0.33 per 1,000 total births

Infant mortality .....

21.4 per 1,000 live births

Neonatal mortality .....

15.5 per 1,000 live births

**Cause of Death**

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	4	—	4
Infective disease .....	1	—	1
Cancer—stomach .....	4	2	6
Cancer—lungs .....	4	—	4
Cancer—breast .....	—	1	1

Cancer—uterus .....	—	1	1
Other malignant disease .....	6	8	14
Diabetes .....	1	—	1
Vascular lesions, — nervous .....	16	17	33
Coronary disease .....	27	9	36
Hypertension and heart disease .....	2	5	7
Other cardiac disease .....	13	16	29
Circulatory Disease .....	10	5	15
Influenza .....	4	4	8
Pneumonia .....	4	—	4
Bronchitis .....	17	4	21
Ulcer of stomach etc. ....	1	1	2
Enlarged prostate .....	3	—	3
Pregnancy—Childbirth etc. ....	—	1	1
Congenital malformations .....	4	1	5
Other diseases .....	16	17	33
Motor Vehicle accidents .....	5	—	5
Other accidents .....	2	4	6
Suicide .....	1	2	3
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>243</b>

## Infectious Disease and Immunisation

There has been a satisfactory response to immunisation and vaccination, but the district has been free from epidemics.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED									
		AGE PERIODS — YEARS									
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	Age and over known all deaths
Scarlet Fever	17	—	1	—	2	2	12	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis—Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	390	19	58	58	48	79	122	5	1	—	—
								0-	5-	15-	45- and over known all deaths
Acute pneumonia (prim. & infl.)	3							—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	6							—	1	3	1

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Staff of the Public Health Department and my colleagues in the other Departments for their help in the daily work and also the members of the Council for their continued support.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1961

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1961.

I consider that the Council can feel reasonably satisfied with the progress that has been maintained during the year with the programme of pail closet conversions and Slum Clearance. It is realized however, that this work must continue until all the pails are abolished and the last of the sub-standard houses demolished and the occupants rehoused.

In November notices were served on the owners of two hundred and twenty-four properties to convert pail closets to the water carriage system. Work in connection with these notices was only carried out in a few instances during the year under review, but the reduction will be shown in the following year.

Eighty families involving one hundred and ninety-eight persons were rehoused from the remaining houses in the 1959 Slum Clearance programme leaving only one aged person to be rehoused. Eighty-three houses in clearance areas were demolished in addition to five houses not in clearance areas. From these latter mentioned houses five families were rehoused.

In July official representations were submitted in respect of a further eleven clearance areas involving eighty-eight houses. When these houses have been dealt with there will remain approximately one hundred and twenty houses which were included in 1960 in the Council's four year programme.

There has been a remarkable increase in the number of dwellings built by private enterprise and the demand does not seem to be declining. A large number of the owners of these dwellings are persons coming from other districts. It would appear that it is a sound financial proposition to purchase new property at reasonable prices outside the more congested towns and cities and to travel to places of employment than to purchase dwellings in the larger towns and cities at enhanced prices.

The development of new building sites has brought its own particular problems such as refuse collection. The increasing number of dustbins to be collected weekly requires a constant review of the schedule of work for the vehicles and employees involved. I must also mention that the design layout of these private estates has resulted in a greater length of carry for the employees in the collection of the bins as compared with the older terraced houses.

The many other duties performed by the public health department staff have been carried out as in other years. Particular attention has been given to house inspections and food hygiene.

### Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re-nuisances and complaints .....	3,007
Nuisances discovered .....	1,632
Nuisances abated .....	1,420
Re-visits re nuisances .....	1,504
Visits re infectious disease .....	26
Re-visits re infectious disease .....	20
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale...	474
Visits to factories .....	113
Visits to dairies .....	45
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts) .....	251
Notices served (Preliminary) .....	272
Notices served (Statutory) .....	38
Legal proceedings .....	Nil
Letters sent .....	651
Court Abatement Orders Made .....	Nil

### Description of Nuisances Dealt With

Defective and damp walls .....	177
,, roofs .....	178
,, eavesgutters and spouts .....	180
,, floors .....	9
,, sinks .....	10
,, wastepipes .....	22
,, plasterwork .....	260
,, windows and doors .....	277
,, staircases .....	15
,, paving in yards and passages .....	33
,, chimneys and stacks .....	26
,, setting around gullies .....	17
,, firegrates .....	49
,, washing boilers .....	1
,, W.C. cisterns .....	39
,, W.C. basins .....	6
,, W.C. supply pipes .....	111

„	closets (roof, floors, walls, doors and seats) .....	19
„	ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls) .....	12
„	pail places and doors .....	2
Overcrowding .....		11
Houses or parts requiring cleansing .....		5
Accumulation of refuse .....		18
Choked and defective drains .....		99
Ventilating shafts .....		16
Insufficient light and ventilation .....		10
Miscellaneous .....		30

### Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

As mentioned in the early portion of the report considerable progress has been made in this most important field.

The Council erected fifty-five houses and thirty-two bungalows during the year and gave consideration to a scheme for the erection of a further one hundred and ten dwellings on the Low Bank Road estate. This number includes four disabled persons bungalows. They will be a boon to those disabled persons who obtain tenancy of same, but from enquiries I have received the number to be erected may not be sufficient to meet the actual need.

Private estate development was responsible for the erection of one hundred and thirty-six houses and eighty-nine bungalows. Site operations had been commenced in connection with other estates in the district by the end of the year.

### Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

		Houses	Bungalows
(a) (i) By local authority .....		55	32
(ii) By other local authorities .....		Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....		136	89

I. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—

		Houses
(I) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). (Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60) .....		472
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose .....		1,201

(c) Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ...

(2) Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit .....

## 2. Houses Demolished :—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	83	198	80
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc. ....	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43(2), Housing Act, 1957 ....	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas :			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ....	5	13	5
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ....	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ....	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ....	—	—	—

### 3. Unfit Houses Closed :—

	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	2	9	2
(2) Under Sections 17(3), and 26 Housing Act, 1957 .....	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

#### 4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which defects were remedied:

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :—

	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
Position at end of year :	(1)	(2)
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation :—		
(a) Under Section 48 .....	—	—
(b) Under Section 17(2) .....	—	—
(c) Under Section 46 .....	—	—
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 .....	—	—

6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—

Houses in Clearance Areas other  
than those included in confirmed  
Clearance Orders or Compulsory  
Purchase Orders, purchased during  
the year .....

—

—

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—  
Improvement grants etc :—

	Private bodies or Individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling- or other buildings affected	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling- or other buildings affected

Action during year :

(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	4	4	—	—
(b) Approved by Local Authority .....	4	4	—	—
(c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed .....	4	4	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(g) Any other action taken under Act : .....	Nil			

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grants :—  
Action during year :

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority .....	43
(b) Applications approved by local authority .....	42
(c) Work completed .....	47

There was a slight decrease in the number of applications for Standard Grants during the year, but even so, work was completed in connection with forty-seven applications. In addition four applications were received and approved for Discretionary Grants.

In all cases the applications were made by owner/occupiers which emphasises the lack of interest by landlords in the advantages that can be taken of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

### **Rent Act, 1957**

Only one application was made for a Certificate of Disrepair. An undertaking was received from the landlord, therefore, no certificate was issued.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958**

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

Two applications were received from licensed slaughtermen and in each case the application was granted.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food**

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations which came into operation in October, 1960, consolidated and amended the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 to 1957. They lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises and stalls etc., and of apparatus and equipment, the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of certain infections, the construction of food premises, the repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles etc., and the facilities to be provided and the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit disease are to be kept in food premises. The regulations also make provision as to the transport and carrying of meat.

There was no relaxation during the year in the supervision of premises and vehicles used in connection with the preparation, sale and storage of food. The standard of food hygiene is generally satisfactory, but in some instances it was necessary to call the attention of certain traders to non-observance of the regulations. During the busy periods some shop keepers are inclined to neglect the essential points which are necessary to prevent contamination of the food being sold. Our duty is to educate food handlers so that at all times the provisions of the various Acts and regulations are complied with.

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers .....	105
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc.) .....	15
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.) .....	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.) .....	19
Bakers and/or confectioners .....	21
Fried Fish shops .....	24
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments .....	74
Other .....	6

The next table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Sections 115 and 116.

Sale of Ice-Cream .....	67
Manufacture of Cooked Meat and Sausage .....	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles .....	5
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles .....	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles .....	11

### Food Condemned — 1961

37 Tins Fruit	2 Tins Tomatoes
2 Tins Cream	6 Tins Peas
2 lbs. Ham	6 lbs. Corned Beef
7 Tins Tongue	2 Tins Shrimps
1 Tin Soup	1 Tin Salmon
6 Tins Corned Beef	35 lbs. Beef
2 Tins Beans	5 Tins Ham
9 Tins Stewed Steak	2 Tins Rice Pudding
1 Tin Luncheon Meat	1 Tin Evaporated Milk

### Milk and Dairies

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The Milk (Special Designations), Regulations, 1960.

The number of registered distributors is as follows :—

(1) Dairies in district .....	6
(2) Shops in district .....	50

One hundred and three visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is sold, in addition to farms, etc., in connection

with milk sampling, the particulars of which are as follows :—

<b>Biological Test (Tuberculosis)</b>	21
Negative	21
Positive	Nil
No result	Nil
<b>Phosphatase Test</b>	17
Satisfactory	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil
<b>Methylene Blue Test</b>	17
Satisfactory	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil
<b>Turbidity Test</b>	7
Satisfactory	7
Unsatisfactory	Nil

### **Ice-Cream**

Forty samples of Ice-Cream were taken, the results being as follows :—

	Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade 1	32	28
Provisional Grade 2	7	7
Provisional Grade 3	1	1
Provisional Grade 4	Nil	Nil
Void Samples	Nil	Nil

The construction of the new ice-cream dairy which was commenced in 1960 was completed in 1961 and was a great improvement on the smaller dairy previously used by the manufacturer. His fleet of vehicles has also been increased, the latest addition being six vehicles of modern design.

There has also been an increase in the sale of soft ice-cream by vendors from outside the district from new vehicles, also of modern design.

### **Licensed Premises**

In the district there are thirty-two public houses and eighteen clubs. In addition there are seven off-licences in various parts of the town. Routine inspections are made at these premises and during the year structural improvements to sanitary accommodation have been made at a number of licensed premises.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

There are two shops licensed under the provisions of this Act which empowers local authorities to secure a reasonable standard of care and accommodation for the animals kept on the premises prior to sale. A fee of ten shillings is payable in respect of each application made.

### **Petroleum (Regulation) Acts**

Forty-four applications were received for licences for the storage of petroleum spirit and the sum of £32 10s. 0d. was received in fees for same.

Strict control is exercised over the installation of new tanks and visits have been paid to all premises where petroleum spirit is stored to ensure that the conditions under which the licencees are issued are being observed.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

During the year a weekly collection of dustbins from houses and shops was maintained with the exception of the annual holiday period. Five Bedford Refuse collection vehicles of seven cubic yard capacity and one Karrier Dual Tip of eighteen cubic yard capacity are used for the collection of domestic and trade refuse. Waste paper is collected from both domestic and trade premises. No charge is made for any materials that can be salvaged but a sum of £117. 9s. 6d. was received for the collection of trade refuse.

One six hundred gallon Dennis gully emptier is engaged in the collection of pail closet content for part of each week, the remainder of the week being spent in the cleansing of gullies, cesspools etc., by the Highways Department.

The Carr Mill refuse tip, at which tipping was commenced in 1960, is now in full use. The work involved in draining the site, soil excavation, stockpiling etc. is expensive owing to the cost of the hire of the machinery required. It is absolutely necessary however, to recover every cubic foot of soil that can be excavated to provide covering material to provide land for agricultural use.

The interference with the tip by unauthorised persons is exceptional. When notices are erected they are removed by the following day and in dry weather fires are lit almost daily. It is impossible to apprehend the culprits owing to the nature of the surrounding land and the amount of cover provided by shrubs etc.

In the preamble I mentioned the length of carry for dustbins in the new private housing estates. These remarks also apply to the Council's housing estates. The difference in the distance walked by an employee in collecting a dustbin from a terraced type house and a Council house can be as much as four hundred yards.

I am pleased with the reduction in the number of pail closets during the year, but I hope that there will be an increased number converted in 1962 following the serving of notices in November, 1961.

### **Provision of Dustbins**

A sum of £4,375 was allocated in the rate estimate for the year

1961-62, for the provision of dustbins throughout the district in accordance with Section 75(3) Public Health Act, 1936. At the end of the year delivery of the first order for five hundred dustbins had been received and the work of distribution commenced.

The following particulars relate to the number of pails, water closets, bins and ashpits in the district and give details of the progress made during the year.

### Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C.'s. provided	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
24	95	411	116	333

### Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1960 (approximately)	690
Less number converted .....	95
Less number demolished .....	24
Total abolished .....	119
	119
Total number of pail closets at end of 1961 .....	571
Number of water closets at end of 1960 (approximately)	6,275
Number of conversions, including troughs and waste water) .....	95
Number of fresh water closets at new houses .....	312
Number of extra water closets erected .....	29
Number of water closets demolished .....	25
	25
Number of water closets at end of 1961 .....	6,686
Number of waste water closets included above .....	14
Number of dry ashpits at end of 1960 (approximately)	1,326
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1961 .....	116
	116
	1,210
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1960 (approximately) .....	5,456
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1961 .....	84
Number of new houses .....	312
Extra bins provided .....	6
	6
	5,858
Number of bins at properties demolished .....	69
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1961	5,789
	5,789

## Salvage of Waste Paper

There was an increase in both the weight of paper collected and in the cash received from the sale of same. The income was increased by a sum of over £400.

The income and weight was as follows :—  
£2,289 11s. 1d. from 275 tons 8 cwts. 3 qrs.

## Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register : 122.

	Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power .....	94	62
Without Mechanical Power .....	22	43
Other Premises (Not outworker) .....	6	8
	122	113
	—	—

### Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation .....	1	1
Insufficient closet accommodation .....	1	1
Want of cleanliness .....	2	2
	4	4
	—	—

## Registered Premises

Bakers and Confectioners .....	22
Plumbers and Painters .....	13
Joiners and Builders .....	11
Shoeing smiths .....	1
Motor and cycle repairers .....	19
Lock and hinge manufacturers .....	3
Laundries .....	1
Printers .....	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers .....	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers .....	2
Ice-Cream Manufacturers .....	2
Sausage makers .....	12
Wholesale chemists .....	1
Cotton weavers .....	1
Boot, shoe and clog repairers .....	9
Gas holders .....	1
Electricians .....	1
Sawmills .....	2
Contractors .....	1

Air compressors, etc. ....	1
Monumental Masons ....	1
Agricultural machinery repairers ....	2
Metal Turners ....	2
Cinemas ....	1
Food Preparation ....	1
Demolition Contractors ....	1
Cattle food preparation ....	1
General Engineering ....	7

122

### Section 110

There are three outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business outside this area.

### Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories .....	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories .....	Nil

### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

This Act provides for the registration of premises at which new filling materials are used in the course of the business.

Inspections have been made at the cabinet makers premises operating within the district and it has not been found necessary to advise that registration should be applied for.

### Smoke Abatement

Fifteen observations were made of smoke emission from factory chimneys during the year. Numerous discussions with managers took place with a view to reducing smoke and grit discharged into the atmosphere.

The district is within the provisional list of authorities in the "black areas" and is included in the Merseyside area, but by the end of the year no action had been taken regarding the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are no caravan sites within the district, but supervision has been maintained to prevent the unauthorised use of land for the siting of caravans.

During the year the common land at Edge Green was used by gypsies for short stays and a considerable amount of trouble was caused

by them due to their filthy and inconsiderate ways. In one instance however, it was necessary to make arrangements for the hospitalisation of a lady caravan dweller who was seriously ill.

The gratitude expressed by the other members of the family to the Officers and the Health Visitors concerned was almost overwhelming.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Lancashire County Constabulary for their willing co-operation and support when dealing with difficult and argumentative members of the gypsy class.

### **Infectious Disease**

Visits were made in connection with certain notified cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of twenty-six houses was carried out. One case of poliomyelitis was notified which necessitated a considerable amount of investigation regarding school contacts. The child attended a local school and it was considered advisable to issue a circular letter of guidance to the parents of all contacts. I am pleased to report that there were no further cases notified.

### **Disinfestation**

In addition to the usual cases of disinfection dealt with during the year it was found necessary to deal with ten houses in a Clearance Area that were affected by bed-bugs.

A price quoted by a fumigation company for this work was £258 10s. Od., but after full consideration it was decided that the disinfection be carried out by the Public Health Department staff. As will be readily appreciated, work of this nature is most unpleasant and there is always the risk of conveying vermin on clothing. I consider that efficient treatments were carried out and on follow up inspections no signs have been seen of any re-infestation.

The number and type of infestations dealt with was as follows :—

Council Houses	17	Other Houses	37
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The houses were treated for the following infestations :—

Cockroaches	26	Silverfish	3
Bugs	2	Ants	18
Wood Lice	1	Fleas	3
		Earwigs	1

### **Rodent Control**

Following the 10% test baiting of sewer manholes which gave a negative result the Ministry decided that there would be no need to proceed with the sewer maintenance treatments for that particular year.

The district was surveyed by the full-time Rodent Operator to check on possible rodent infestations.

Details of other action taken was as follows :—

		Non-Agricultural Dwelling houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a)	Number of properties in district .....	6,479	851	54
(b)	Number of properties inspected .....	633	154	30
(c)	Total inspections carried out including re-inspections .....	1,057	250	48
(d)	Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
	Rats — major .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
	minor .....	201	25	1
	Mice — major .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
	minor .....	36	12	Nil
(e)	Number of infested properties treated	237	37	1
(f)	Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) .....	237	37	1
(g)	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out .....	Nil	Nil	Nil

### **Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956**

The local authority is empowered by this Act to ensure that agricultural units on which workers are employed are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

All units throughout the district have been inspected and additional visits have been made during the harvesting period. In every instance the facilities provided were satisfactory.

### **Public Conveniences**

Once again I have to report that the public conveniences in Wigan Road and Princess Road have been targets for some misguided persons with an enormous capacity for destruction.

Hardly a week goes by without a report being received of some damage being caused to windows, doors, fixtures and fittings.

The conveniences, however, have been maintained in a very clean and hygienic condition despite the considerable nuisance which the attendants have to deal with, particularly during the autumn when the Blackpool and Morecambe illuminations are in progress.

## Problem Families

I regret that it was found necessary by the Council to take action against a family which had been a cause for concern for a considerable number of years. Every possible effort had been made by the Council as a collective body and by individual members to keep this family together. All the officials who dealt with this type of problem had also done their utmost to try to educate the persons concerned, but to no avail.

I am pleased to report however, that many other families who have, at some time or other, been in need of supervision have maintained a steady improvement over the years.

At the quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee all cases are discussed with other field workers and I must express my thanks to them for their willing co-operation at all times.

## Food and Drugs Acts

The action taken by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department is as follows :—

A total of ninety-six samples was obtained, consisting of forty-seven of milk (four of which were Channel Islands milk) and forty-nine other comprising :—

4 Lard	3 Barley
1 Seidlitz powders B.P.	2 Gravy browning
1 Spiced malt vinegar	5 Vinegar
4 Fish, canned	2 Butter
1 Cooking fat	1 Lemon curd
2 Jam	3 Vegetables, dried
1 Rice	1 Rolled oats
2 Flour	2 Cheese
3 Fruit, dried	2 Table jellies
3 Sweets	1 Pickles
2 White pepper	2 Edible cake decorations
	1 Cut, mixed peel

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

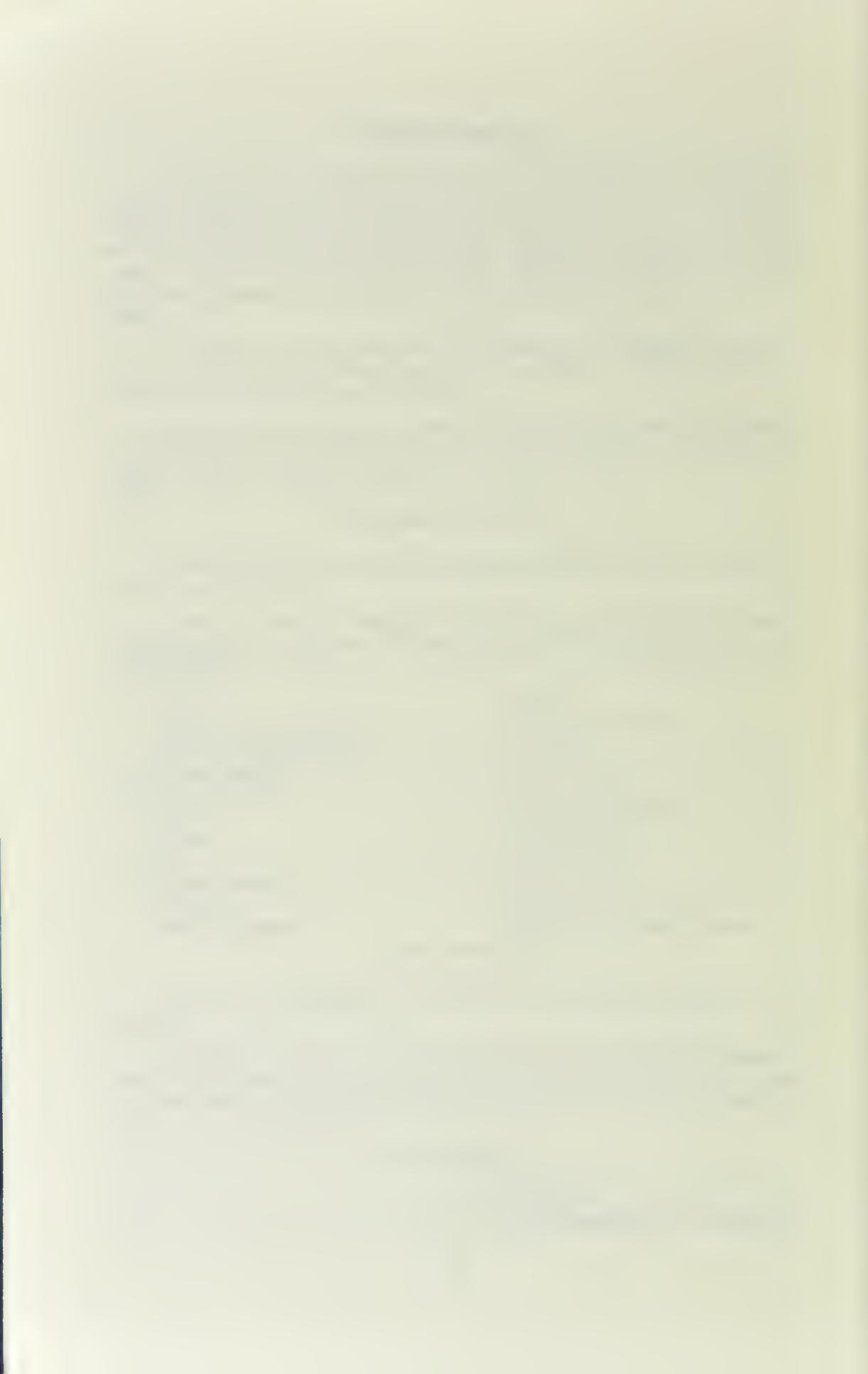
In conclusion I wish to thank the staff of the Public Health Department and all other officials of the Town Hall, together with the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the co-operation given to me during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.







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